

# SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on 15 October 2020 at 7.00pm, via Zoom.**

**PRESENT**

Councillors: G Price Jones  
K Flavell  
G Merry  
S Broad  
L Crane  
S Crane  
S Corcoran  
J Beddows  
S Kirkham  
P Eaton  
R Hovey  
D Jack (left 9.15pm)  
A Smith  
I Williams  
K Seymour  
R Hoffmann  
D Hegarty

Also present were fifteen members of the public and press, the Town Ranger and Operational Support Officer.

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: M Muldoon  
M Lea O'Mahoney

Absent without apologies: S Ashcombe-Hurt

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

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## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public.

### Speaker 1.

Queried omission of 20mph speed restriction within specific areas and traffic measures in place at Jct17, Middlewich Road and Old Mill Road.

It was agreed that the resident would be contacted by Heath Ward Councillor outside of the Council meeting and, as necessary, in consultation with CEC Ward Cllr Benson and Highways Dept.

### Speaker 2

Regarding correspondence from a Town Councillor email address, referenced Council's legal position on the matter and next steps.

In reply, it was confirmed there is no legal action pending on behalf of the Council and that any complaint regarding Councillor email use should be directed to the Monitoring Officer.

### Speaker 3

Referencing a recent newspaper report of a Confidential meeting to discuss office accommodation, the resident queried public inclusion.

The resident was advised that, due to commercial and personnel sensitivity, the very early stage discussion remained confidential and that it was made clear throughout the discussion, with full Council agreement, that stakeholder consultation in due course would be key to progression of any accommodation projects.

Following questions the Town Mayor reconvened the Town Council Meeting.

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## **3. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**Resolved:** That agenda item 5 (RFO) be considered with the exclusion of the public and press, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to Personnel nature.

## **4. SLI USAGE**

Members discussed the current SLI tenancy and associated financial impact during a period in which staff are required to work from home and where Council are making headway on plans to facilitate accessible meetings, in due course, within the Town Hall complex.

It was confirmed that, regretfully, Trustee's earlier external grant application plans and funding awarded from the Town Council have not so far enabled progression to converting to an accessible venue and the SLI therefore remains unsuitable for Council use.

Further mention was made regarding furniture, Covid-safe use of shared/communal facilities, necessary savings during current pandemic and the building being a focal point of the Town.

**Resolved:** That notice be given to terminate the SLI tenancy by 31 December.

**5. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO)**

***Considered in a closed session of the meeting due to Personnel nature.***

Members received details of current requirement of the RFO role and expertise required for the tasks, which have been completed by the Finance Officer in previous years.

**Resolved:** That, with immediate effect, the Finance Officer undertake the role of Acting RFO on a three month basis and commensurate temporary salary increase to SCP 27.

**6. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Town Council Meeting will be on Thursday 22 October 2020 at 7.00pm on Zoom. The room code will be shared on the agenda for the meeting.

Meeting closed 7.49pm

Cllr G Price Jones (Town Mayor)

KP

DRAFT